



THE RARA E-RAG

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"Digital Modes – A Primer and an Update"

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Vice President, RaRa

Have you ever been tuning around the HF bands and heard those odd buzzing sounds and warbling tones that sound like your neighbor's cats in the middle of a hot summer's night? Not unlike those cats, what you're hearing is a language all its own: a digital language between two machines (or possibly cyborg cats from 4-land chewing the rag). The various digital modes can provide quick and efficient communications in even the noisiest situations. By using very narrow bandwidth signals, and the ears and speed of your computer for encoding and decoding, they can punch through when voice signals can't.

It doesn't matter if you're new to the digital modes (RTTY, PSK, etc...) or a seasoned veteran, you won't want to miss this presentation by Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC, on March 5th at our usual venue the Henrietta Fire Station #1. For those of you who have not ventured into the digital mode arena, there is nothing to be afraid of. Hooking your PC up to your rig is quick and easy, Ross will give you all the information you need to get hooked up and started as soon as you get home. It's that simple! He will also help you break the ice with a how-to on calling CQ and typical exchanges. You'll also learn the secret frequencies to use, and how to transmit "upside down" – so you can work all those Australians and South Americans!

For operators who already run Digital, Ross has some valuable tips and tricks for tuning, cutting through the pileups and getting yourself heard – you can start by NOT transmitting upside down. There are also many things you can do, and tools you can use, to increase your proficiency and make more QSO's in less time! From rag-chew to WAS and DXCC; digital modes are for you!



TELETYPE MODEL 19 SET

Digital modes - Yesterday vs. Today



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Silent Key

Arthur F. Debruycker, W2YGW
January 29, 2010



The Prez Sez

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
President, RaRa

Recently I was asked where one could find an updated repeater listing for the Rochester area. "The ARRL Repeater Directory" is one source that is published yearly but I'll bet the person was looking for a free source. So I went digging through my files and found a list of repeaters from the Western New York and Southern Ontario Repeater Council (WNYSORC). Within a few days of starting this quest for repeater listings I get an email from Bob Soltis who is the Treasurer of the Upper New York Repeater Council (UNYREPCO). Why do we need to know about both of these organizations?

The Rochester area has the privilege of having the repeaters in our area coordinated by 2 different repeater councils. UNYREPCO deals with all repeaters east of the Genesee River and all within the City of Rochester. WNYSORC deals with all repeaters to the west of the City of Rochester and west of the Genesee River.

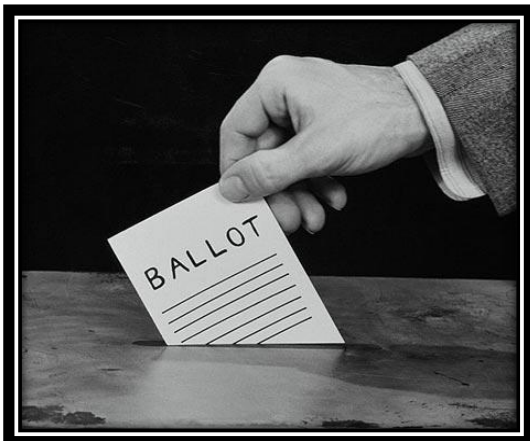
More information on UNYREPCO is available from their web site at <http://www.unyrepc.org>. Memberships are available for any licensed amateur radio operators that reside in the region served by UNYREPCO. A listing of repeaters can be downloaded from the web site.

More information on WNYSORC is available from their web site at <http://www.wnysorc.org>. Memberships are available for any licensed amateur radio operators that reside in the region served by WNYSORC. A listing of repeaters can be downloaded from the web site.

Weeks later I am telling Dick Goslee (KG2I) about my search for the perfect repeater listing for our area. Dick immediately tells me there is an up to date repeater listing in the club directory. Who knew? Not only that but the Directory contains 2 copies of the listing. You have one for the shack and another one for your car. I guess the Directory is good for more than just looking up call signs.

Don't forget that club elections are just around the corner. The flood of calls from prospective candidates has been overwhelming. Okay, maybe I overstated that a little bit. Let me call it a drought for now. RARA needs you!

If you missed the February meeting you missed a good one. Dave Shields with RG&E gave a wonderful presentation on power line noise and all the things that RG&E has to do to keep line noise down and quality up. If you missed the presentation, the audio file will be on the RARA web site under Past Meeting Topics.



Don't forget to return your postage paid postcard that came with your Directory. The Board of Directors and Officers of the club want to hear from you and we made it easy and **free** for you to respond. Thank-you in advance for returning the postcards with your selections.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on March 5, 2010.

As always the coffee will be hot, the soda will be cold, and the donuts will be fresh!

Calendar of Events

- Mar 5** RaRa Meeting
7:30 PM, Henrietta FD #1
- Mar 10** RaRa Board of Directors
5:30 PM, RIT
Bldg-17, Room 2110
- Mar 14** Greater Buffalo Hamfest
Ismailia Shrine Center
- Mar 16** RDXA Meeting
7:30 PM, 1190 Scottsville Rd
Rm 200
- Mar 19** RRRA Meeting
8:00 PM, Pittsford Town Hall
- Mar 20** VE Testing
10:00 AM, RIT
Bldg-9, Room 3139
- Mar 25** ARES Meeting
7:00 PM, Red Cross
50 Prince St.

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Arthur F. DeBruycker, W2YGW 1926-2010

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

The Radio Amateur community is saddened by the sudden loss of one of its more senior members with the death of Art DeBruycker, W2YGW. Art was first licensed pre-war with the help of another area old timer, friend and much loved amateur, George Batterson, W2GB. (sk) George was a died-in-the-wool CW man and that rubbed off on Art in a big way. Over time Art developed his CW skills to an unprecedented level that many would do well to emulate. Further, he turned that skill to good use by becoming heavily involved in the ARRL National Traffic System where he was a regular Net Control station as well as a Net Manager. A well directed CW net is like music to the ears of those who wish to partake. A quick call in, a quick traffic list, an incredibly abbreviated command from net control to move off and take traffic, a dit dit (I'm back) and on and on until all of the traffic is moved with speed, efficiency and accuracy assured by a skilled director. Art did that as well as anyone.

A long time friend and fellow CW traffic handler, Bud Hippisley, W2RU, wrote in part saying "Truly, throughout most of his years on the air, Art sported one of the most beautiful "Tape" fists you would ever hope to hear."

After serving his country in both WW2 and in Korea, Art returned to the area and began a long time career in the Broadcasting industry with much time spent at WHEC radio and channels 10 and 21 television. While at channel 10, Art demonstrated an additional skill set by joining the station's employee pistol shooting team. It was there where Art met a fellow shooter, RaRa's own Dick Goslee, KG2I. Dick said of Art, "he was a very good shooter and won a number of awards. I learned a lot from him." Both Art and Dick would later be chosen to represent New York State on the state-wide pistol team.

Later in his career Art became more and more active with RaRa and local activities. He taught CW, naturally, at RaRa's Code and Theory classes for many years. One of his students, Carl Decker, KC2KPK, reported on Art saying "he took a lot of interest in his students and was very genuine and sincere as well as a very nice gentleman."

Art finally made the ultimate step in helping his Club by serving as RaRa President in 1996-1997. During this time Art also volunteered at the AWA Museum in Bloomfield. While there, Art used his computer skills to integrate the artifact data base with embedded photographs, a system that is still used today when referencing the collection.

Art also enjoyed "playing" at radio too. He was a delight to have as a member of the Band-Dit-Dahs Field Day group where he amazed fellow FD participants by operating high speed contest CW and holding conversations or doing other activity, only to sit down and log the last five QSO's out of his head. If you wanted to find Art at the Field Day site, or at a flea market, just look for the huge over sized straw hat and Art would be under it.

Art was a member of the coveted ARRL "A-1 Operators Club" that is peer recognition for Radio Amateur's displaying only the best of operating techniques and skills. He also easily won several code copying contests at the Rochester Hamfest "Rough and Ready" code test put on by Clara, W2RUF.

Art will be missed by all who knew him. This is truly a case where his *silent key* is an altering event in the evolution of ham radio in our community and beyond.



DeBruycker, Arthur F.

Fairport: January 29, 2010.

Survived by his loving wife of 35 years Diana; children, Barbara Barrington, James DeBruycker, Sandra (David) Malinowski, Linda (James) Schaap; step-son, Dale (Sherri) Bramer; 11 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren. Arthur worked as a television engineer for several years around the Rochester area. He was also a ham radio operator for over 50 years. Arthur was also a US Army and Navy veteran serving in WWII and the Korean War.

No prior calling. The family will hold a Memorial Service at the First Congregational UCC Church of Fairport later this Spring to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Congregational UCC Church of Fairport in his memory.

Sign & View Arthur's Guest Book:



Upgrade with Spring 2010 License Course

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA License Class Coordinator

Course: General Class License. This course is for folks who have a Technician Class License and want to upgrade to General. (See www.rochesterham.org)

When: Nine Thursdays, March 18th through May 13th
License testing available Saturday June 5th at the Rochester Hamfest (See www.rochesterham.org).

Time: 6:30 PM – Classes lasting for about 2 hours

Location: RIT Campus, Building 9
Room: 09-1129
Use Parking Lot F or J
See map at

<http://facilities.rit.edu/campus/maps/general/general.pdf>

Registration: March 18th at 6:30 PM, in assigned classroom.

Tuition: **Nonmembers:**
For nonmembers, \$43 (includes course fee, 1 year Full Membership in RARA, and ARRL General Class license textbook)

RARA Members:

For existing RARA members, \$28 which includes the textbook (\$24) and course fee (\$4).

Payment at time of registration. Make check payable to *Rochester Amateur Radio Association.*

Walk-ins are welcome but it is strongly recommended that you make a reservation because classroom space is limited. For more information and to reserve space in the course, contact:

Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
License Course Coordinator
585-389-1926 (home)
585-721-2117 (cell)
w2zey@rochester.rr.com

VE NEWS

On January 16th we had 14 candidates and all 14 passed with the following results: 10 Technician, 1 General and 3 Extra. Special mention is made of Ben Matthews KC2VJW who passed both the General and Extra exams at this session.

Thomas	Anderson	KB1TPF	T
Shawn	Beltraccht	KC2WMI	T
Evan	Brent	KC2WMJ	T
Michael	Calarco	KC2WMK	T
Frank	Forkl	KC2WML	T
Mason	Pinckard	KC2WMM	T
Robert	Roberts	KC2WMP	T
Nathan	Schiffer	KC2WMN	T
Christopher	Tomkins-Tinch	KC2WMO	T
Tim	Garvin	KD8MXC	T
Samuel	Swisher	N2TJX	G
Craig	Connelly	N2CJC	E
Benjamin	Matthews	KC2VJW	E
Robert	Phillips	W2MXL	E

The next testing session will be on March 20th at RIT, Bldg 9, Room 3129 starting at 10:00AM.



**RaRa Amateur Radio
License Testing is held on
the 3rd Saturday of each
Month, September through
April.**

**Registration begins at
10:00AM in RIT Building 9,
Room 3139**
[\(click for map\)](#)

**Contact Ken Hall, W2KRH
for space reservations.**

Public Service 2010

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

Below is the list of local events that are being coordinated by local hams. The RARA web site should be updated by March 1st. Go to www.rochesterham.org and click on "Public Service". A complete listing of events and details on each event are there. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the boxes. Highlight the events you like and click on "Submit". I will receive an email with your information and will reply to you acknowledging that I have received it.

Tour de Cure – Sun, June 13, 2010

MS Bike Ride – Sat & Sun, August 7 & 8, 2010

Walnut Hill Driving Competition – Wed thru Sun, August 11 - 15, 2010

AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride – Sun, August 22, 2010

Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon – Sun, September 12, 2010

Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta – Sun, September 19, 2010

Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm – Sat, September 25, 2010

Jamboree on the Air (BSA) – Sat & Sun, October 16 & 17, 2010

NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol – Sat & Sun, October 30 & 31, 2010



FREE ARRL Licensing Manuals

Are you, or do you know, a young person interested in getting their TECH license?

If so, contact Dick Goslee
(rgoslee@rochester.rr.com)
for a free ARRL Licensing Manual!

While supplies last - limited to quantities on hand.

Greater Buffalo Hamfest Sunday - March 14, 2010

Ismailia Shrine Center, 1600 Southwestern Blvd RT 20, West Seneca, NY

Vendor Tables ... Only \$ 7 Call NOW - 716-825-7097 or Email: kc2blh@aol.com

Web Site: gbhamfest.hamgate.net
Sponsored by: The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club - W2SO

Awards Thoughts

By Dan & Sue Waterstraat, W2DEW & KC2SUE

March raffle we're offering prizes for your workbench and building stuff. Our first prize is a Tenma Digital Multimeter. Some of the features are:

TENMA Folding calculator style meter includes functions thought impossible of a unit this size. The meter measures only 3/8" thick (excluding folding case) allowing storage virtually anywhere. Requires one 3V lithium which is included.

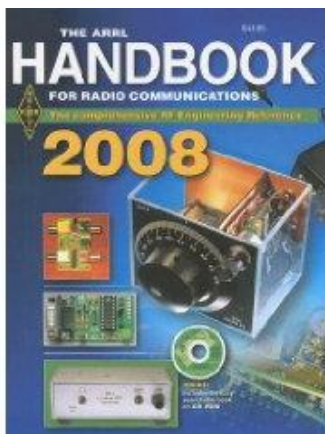


- 5/8" high digits
- DC Voltage: 400mV, 4V, 40V, 400V, 500V
- AC Voltage: 4V, 40V, 400V, 500V
- Resistance: 400Ω, 4KΩ, 40KΩ, 400KΩ, 4MΩ, 20MΩ
- Capacitance: 4nF, 40nF, 400nF, 4μF, 40μF, 200μF
- Frequency: 10Hz ~ 100KHz
- Auto ranging.
- Maximum Display: 3999. (3 3/4 digits)
- Battery Type: 3V button battery (CR2032).
- Dimensions (HxWxL): 4.25 x 2.25 x 0.5 .

Our second prize is a "Two for One" of a Resistor Substitution Box and a Capacitor Substitution Box. These are both kits for your project building enjoyment. The Resistor Substitution Box has 24 values from 10 Ohms to 1 Megohms. The resistors are 5%, 0.5W.



The Capacitor Substitution Box has 24 values from 100pF to .1uF with Ceramic caps 50-100V 10%.



If you missed the ARRL Handbook in January, we have a new, but still very useful, 2008 ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook, CD-ROM Included. The CD-ROM at the back of the book includes all of the fully searchable text and illustrations in the printed book, as well as companion software, PC board templates and other support files. New filter theory and design examples, including a HF/6 meter high-power low-pass filter project. Revised and expanded RF safety content, including new insights into RF safety regulations and research

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June 5th 2010

Scholarship Deadline is April 15, 2010

By Dick Goslee, KG2I

The deadline for submitting applications for the 10th annual RaRa Memorial Scholarship is April 15, 2010. The Scholarship is for \$1000 and applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at (585) 671-2424. Additional information and a copy of the application are also available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at www.rochesterham.org

ARES Meeting

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross. We do not meet during the months of July, August, and December. This month the ARES Meeting will be held on: Thursday, March 25, 2010 Time: 7:00 PM

ARES / RACES members and anyone interested are welcome to attend. For information: www.monroecountymcomm.org

Meetings are held at Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester. Prince Street is just west of the Auditorium Theatre and runs south from East Main St. Although the address of the chapter is on Prince, the parking lot is on College Ave. on the north side of the building. Park in the lot and enter the big building at the main door.

ARES NET: Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month, on the 146.61 MHz. (-) 110.9 Hz pl repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.



RDXA News

By Paul Kolacki, K2FX

It's been some time since we've had any real signs of improved solar activity, but the last few weeks have given us something to finally be optimistic about. Along with that will come some heightened activity on the HF Bands. After all, as DXers we really look forward to solar maximum.

With the HF bands heating up, there might be certain stations and countries you are searching for in particular. If you're looking for that elusive country, DX Clusters and DX Spotting can help you know exactly where to tune your transceivers and point your antennas. But how exactly do these systems work for you?

That will be the topic of the next RDXA Meeting in March. You'll learn how to utilize DX spotting, and filter information you need from what you don't. Please come join us for what promises to be another interesting discussion for amateur radio operators of all skill levels.

The Rochester DX Association meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September thru May at the Monroe County Emergency Operations Center located at 1190 Scottsville Rd, Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14624. The March Meeting will be held on the 16th beginning at 7:30PM.



W1AW 2010 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
21.0675 28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025
21.095 28.095 147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160
21.390 28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

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RRRA News

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

It's that time of year again. RRRA is having its yearly March auction on March 19th. If you looking for something or want to sell that old electronic gear, this is the event for you. Even if you don't think you need anything come for the entertainment and visit with fellow Amateurs. Standard rules apply and some radio gear will be provided from the estate of Arthur DeBruycker W2YGW. I do not have a list as yet, but I should have one soon. I know it will include a tower and at least one mono beam. Please join us as this is a major fund raiser for the club. Dick and Ed have been entertaining us for years and are the Region's best auctioneers / comedy team.

The location is the basement of the Pittsford Town Hall which is near the corner of Rt. 31 and Rt. 96. The Auction starts at 8 pm so come early to set up or see the items for auction. Doors open at 7:15PM. Hope to see you there, and as always, no boat anchors please.

Webster Central School Amateur Radio Club Update - W2WHS

BY Norm Turner, W2NWT
Club Advisor

On January 22, 2010, Paul Deeth, WA2YZT, visited Webster Thomas High School. Paul is the Transmitter Maintenance Supervisor for KCNC-TV 4, the CBS affiliate in Denver, Colorado. Paul graduated from Webster Thomas in 1971, and was delighted to receive a tour of our school and our club radio shack. He then spent the day with our TV Production classes relating his experience in commercial television, including showing his Emmy Award that he received.

We also finally received our certificate from the ARRL for our First Place finish in the Multioperator class for the WNY Section in the 2009 January VHF Sweepstakes. Better late than never, I guess.

Our club meets on Wednesday afternoon, from 2:30 pm to 4 pm at the Webster Thomas High School.



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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: February, 1990

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RaRa Historian



Television was the theme of the March meeting. Sound familiar? Last month we reported the February meeting as being a talk by Dave Schwitek, NW2T, as the guest speaker. Dave, who was the Chief Engineer at WHEC channel 10, had intended to enlighten attendees about new innovations such as stereo audio and high definition in the far future. However, in a rare RaRa moment, the February meeting was cancelled due to a heavy snow storm. Dave was given another chance this month, March, 1990.

Those reading the February 17th *D&C* and *Times-Union* in 1990 were pleased to find a long and very well written feature article on Ham Radio written by RaRa member Philip Mulivor, N2HVI.

Writing for the *Rochester DX Association* was Bob Fortman, WE2T, who reported that the RDXA's next program was on tips to obtain the coveted Five-Band DXCC award.

A joint meeting of the *Rochester VHF Group* and the *Rochester Radio Repeater Association* brought you their annual ham radio auction. Author Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, reported the venue to be the Police and Fire Training Academy on Scottsville Road.

Ed Gable, K2MP, continued to write his "The RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago" articles. As such, reading them today makes those a 40 year historical review. Imagine that, an article, or sometimes two or more, in each RaRa Rag, for over 40 years! (Ed. Note: Thanks very much Ed. The articles are much appreciated by all.)

With regret it was reported that Robert McCarthy, W2EJ, and Milton Miller, W2SHJ, were reported as Silent Keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a Heath SB-300/400 combination from Bob, N2EVG, for \$250.00. A new commercial advertiser was Patrick Moyer, N2AIW, Attorney at Law.

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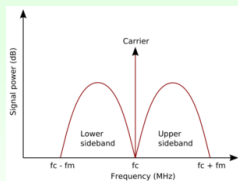
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Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

Whoops. Element 2 Redux. In January, the Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the 2010 Technician (Element 2) Question Pool. Upon further review of the pool, members of the QPC found and corrected more than 50 minor typographical errors and clarified the questions and answers, making them easier to understand. These adopted changes are now incorporated in a revised question pool. The errata list, as well as the revised Technician question pool, is available on the NCVEC Web site at <http://www.ncvec.org/>. The previously released pool dated January 4, 2010 is invalid for use. The newly revised Technician question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after July 1, 2010; it will remain valid until June 30, 2014. **Courtesy of the ARRL**

First Course to Attract Members. Genesee Radio Amateurs (GRAM) is hoping to attract people to the hobby, and new members to its club, by offering a ham radio course for the first time. The club, based in Batavia NY, has been in existence for nearly 40 years and currently has 100 members. The online article describes the increasing role of computers in the hobby and the role of ham radio in emergency communications. Details are at <http://tinyurl.com/yaf6rrj>. **Source: The Daily News Online**

Microphone Same as Cell Phone? The Kawartha Lakes, Ontario police have told amateur radio operators that they must obey the new distracted driving law. According to the police, a microphone is the same thing as a cell phone and radio users should pull to the side of the road for non-emergency communications. There is, however, the unresolved issue that amateur radio comes under federal regulation in Canada and not provincial rule, and it is expected that there will be challenges to how the law is applied. The article is at <http://tinyurl.com/y8lksyq>. **The Lindsay Post**

Double Take on Title. The *Orlando Sentinel* headline gave me cause for a double take: "Ham radio: A fading hobby... until emergencies hit." Perhaps half a compliment is better than no compliment at all, although data for the past several years from the ARRL suggest that the number of new licensees is increasing. The article in the *Sentinel* is nevertheless an interesting read – it focuses on the role of amateur radio in emergency communications, from World War II to the earthquake in Haiti. Pictured in the article is Dick Jansson, KD1K, ARRL technical adviser. You can find the article at <http://tinyurl.com/ybzdegx>.

Armed Forces Share MARS Duty in Haiti. To assist the MARS communications support effort in Haiti, the heads of the Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps MARS programs have agreed to divvy up responsibilities among the three Service MARS programs. According to Air Force MARS Public Information Officer David Trachtenberg, N4WWL/AFA3TR, this delegation of responsibility will facilitate more efficient utilization of MARS communications assets in the overall relief operation. On January 12, a 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, killing thousands and wiped out the island nation's communication infrastructure. Details are at:

<http://tinyurl.com/y9ru62u>. **Courtesy of the ARRL**

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Former ARRL President Named QCWA President Emeritus. Harry Dannals, W2HD – who led the ARRL as President from 1972-1982 and was named ARRL President Emeritus in 1984 – has been named President Emeritus of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). Dannals also served as President of QCWA from 1989-1994. He is the only person to ever serve as President to both organizations. In addition to his work with the QCWA and ARRL, Dannals is a Fellow in the Radio Club of America (RCA), a member of the Society of Wireless Pioneers (SOWP), the Old Old Timers Club (OOTC) and the Veteran Wireless Operators Association (VWOA). In 2002, he was inducted into the CQ Magazine Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. "I was pleased to learn that the QCWA's leadership has conferred upon Harry Dannals this very well-deserved accolade," said ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN. "As the only person to have served as President of the ARRL and the QCWA, he is unique among amateurs." **Courtesy of the ARRL**



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Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, FZZ1POP
Reporting From the Geek Isles

Remote Control of K3 with iPhone. The Elecraft K3 transceiver was popular as soon as it hit the market – so much so that for awhile it would take months to get one when ordered. And now that there are many folks out there enjoying their K3s, there are hams that are experimenting with them. Are you interested in remote control of your Elecraft K3 transceiver? Have you got an iPhone? Nick Garner, N3WG, is working on a project to control his K3 remotely with an iPhone. You can view his YouTube demo at:

<http://tinyurl.com/yhf5x3x>.

Laptop Buying Guide. Are you still using an Epson laptop with 640K RAM and a 60 MB hard drive? And it's running Windows 3.1 and your logging software was written for DOS 5.2? Ready for a new laptop and Logbook of the World? Need to sort through the latest laptops available? Jason Cross of **PCWorld** has written a three-part buying guide for **PCWorld Online** and **The Washington Post**. The following URLs will get you there:

"Selecting the Right Laptop"

<http://tinyurl.com/yh52uph>

"Making Sense of the Specifications"

<http://tinyurl.com/ybf8vof>

"Shopping Tips"

<http://tinyurl.com/yzwfkns>

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Contesting Tips

By Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
Atlantic Division DXAC Representative

The ARRL DX SSB and WPX (SSB and CW) contests are held between now and Memorial Day and offer first time or "retired" contesters a great opportunity to make a few contacts.

The ARRL DX SSB contest will be held the first weekend of March (6 & 7). The beauty of this event is DX stations have to work the USA for points. DX to DX contacts don't count so you're the "multiplier"! Even with a modest station, you can get on and work many stations and remember, they need YOU.

The WPX contests are held the last weekend in March (27 & 28 - SSB) and the last weekend in May (29 & 30 - CW). Here, callsign prefixes count for the multipliers (regardless of the country) so even if you work only stateside stations, you still can add up quite a score.

To assist you in planning your operating strategies, I've assembled a few pointers that I've used throughout the last 18 years I've contested. First and foremost **KNOW PROPAGATION**. This is the most important thing in my opinion. I don't care how tall your antennas are or how big your amp is, if you're not on 40m at 1000z calling VK's and ZL's, they probably won't make your log on that band. If having participated in that particular contest the year before, review your logs and see who you worked and when.

Stay on an open band as long as you can, even if not working "new ones", those 200 LU's (on 10m) will still give you points. Many larger stations are looking for "rates" and will leave when the band "dies" making it easier for us little guys. Also, more time than not (in my 18 years of contesting), bands will be open on Saturday, we take a hit and they're dead on Sunday.

One of my many "elmers", K2FR told me not to waste time Friday nite, there are too many big guns and they, as you, need "everything" at that point in the contest. This is one of the few things I disagreed with him on. Review what I said above, replace Saturday and Sunday with Friday and Saturday, get it?

I always "save" 40m until late Sunday, why? I don't have tons of power, beams or the like. Since these guys are dying for Q's right about then, they'll work with you. Earlier on in the contest, they had plenty of easier stations to copy and wouldn't give you the time of day. 80m is just opening and 20m closing, that's why 40m is where to be. Always check bands that should be otherwise "dead", 10m at 0300z (yes, worked VP9 there, only signal but 40 over, no one calling), check 160m at the top of the hour, many multi's don't dedicate a single station to 160m and only check for band openings at the top (and possibly) bottom of the hour.

The fancier your logging program is, the better chance of it failing, enough said there.

Don't eat "crap", drink beer or load yourself up with coffee or soda. It all shocks your system and you'll crash at some point in time. I drink plenty of water and eat raw vegetables (which make your body work to digest them, keeping you alert and awake).

Finally, the week before and right after contests provide a great opportunity to "pad" your logbook. Guys will be testing their stuff and another little "hint", if just finishing an SSB contest, check CW right afterwards. Many (like myself) tend to enjoy one mode more than others and after 48 hours of screeching, head to CW (or conversely SSB) while your station is still on.

One more thing, don't log ANYTHING you are not absolutely sure you worked! My error rate in the 2008 CQWW SSB was 0.02%, I even got an email from CQ alerting me to a near perfect log. "Fat fingers" and like sounding characters (especially with different dialects involved) can kill an otherwise good effort. And remember, there are different rules pertaining to how the bad Q's penalty is assessed depending on the contest.



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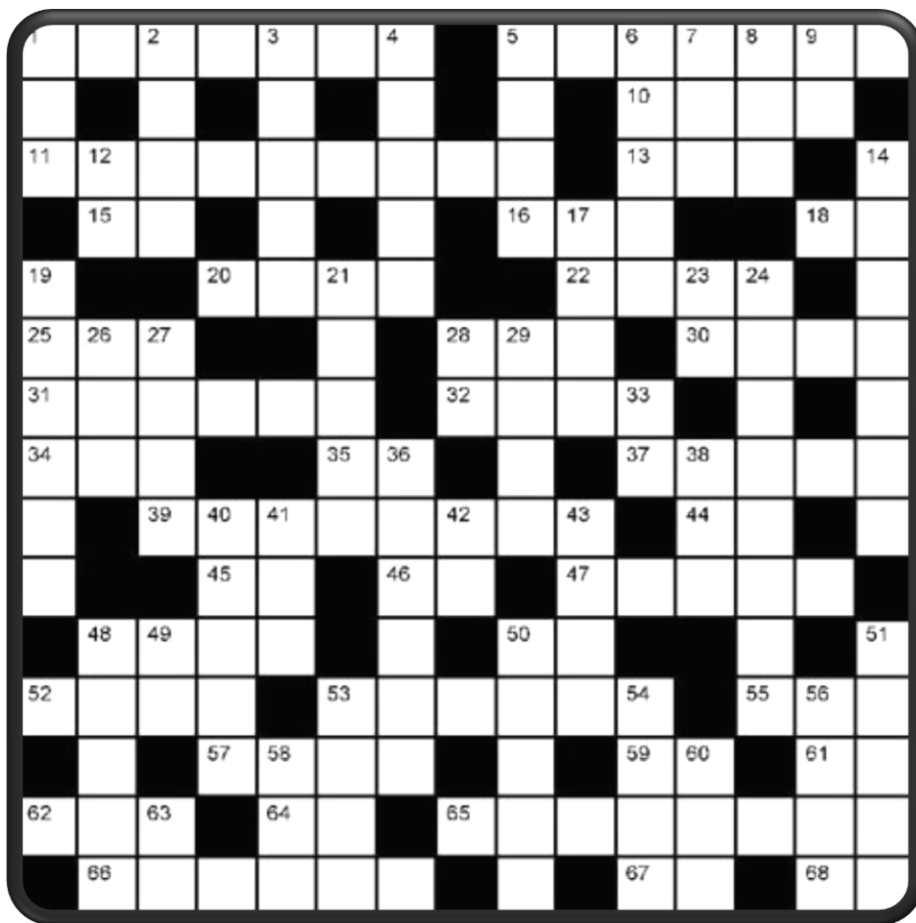
The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler (#434)

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

With everything from Baudot to Vericode to multiple frequency shift, this puzzle gives the digital modes their due.
Have you made a digital QSO yet? It's never been easier. While you're waiting for the bands to open, put your digits to work figuring out this bit-banger of a quiz.

Across

1. Instructions for mixing
5. One way of spreading spectrum
10. Cease to respond
11. Vertical spectrum display
13. Control character meaning "received ok"
15. Excess (abbr.)
16. Loss of signal (acronym)
18. Power or a U.S. state (abbr.)
20. 8 bits
22. File containing hints and instructions
25. Assist
28. Largest computer company
30. Make contact with
31. Lucky modulation scheme
32. IF, THEN, ...
34. Model abbreviation for keyboard terminals
35. Overload (abbr.)
37. Alternate characters or frequency
39. User interface for text
44. Off-topic (acronym)
45. Half of Star Wars robot's name
46. Operating system (acronym)
47. Popular character encoding
48. One of RTTY's tones
50. Teletype (abbr.)
52. Another word for "lid"
53. Bit stream
55. Screw-on antenna mount (abbr.)
57. The back of something
59. Computer services department (acronym)
61. You're (CW abbr.)
62. Original equipment manufacturer (acronym)
64. Ratio of circumference to diameter
65. Establishes communications
66. Parameter used to store your call sign in a TNC
67. Go ahead, this station only (CW prosign)
68. Movie alien



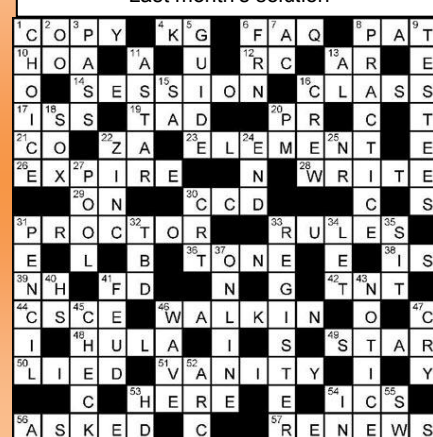
See next month's **RaRa e-RAG** for the solution.

Down

1. Unprocessed data
2. Software purchased commercially (acronym)
3. Type of shared phone line
4. The other type of RTTY tone
5. Mode that sends text as pictures
6. Shifted to send data
7. Prefix to TOR mode
8. Used to make characters on paper
9. No go (acronym)
12. First two letters of packet protocol
14. Transmitted data structures
17. Law relating voltage, current and resistance
19. Work on a problem
21. Data protocol that sounds like pulsing
23. Type of wire antenna (acronym)
24. What the P in APRS stands for
26. System that guides airplane landings (acronym)
27. Another word for nerd

28. Latin abbreviation for "that is"
29. Smear an image
33. And (CW abbr.)
36. Make squelch easier to open
38. Make it up as you go - ad ...
40. Mistake
41. Big software date problem
42. Stand by (CW abbr.)
43. FCC class of modes that send digital information
48. Changes data to modulated signals and vice versa
49. Home state for TAPR
50. Early weather satellite
51. The case you design for
53. Type of solar satellite propulsion
54. Logical connection between devices
56. Shut off
58. Government agency and 3rd district section (acronym)
60. Counting base
63. Belonging to me

Last month's solution



THE RARA E-RAG

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April e-Rag Deadline
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